

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Unit Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service Houston

Port Security Information Bulletin
PSIB 12-04

Maritime Security Condition (MARSEC) 3 Drill
June 16, 2004

*****THIS IS A DRILL***THIS IS A DRILL***THIS IS A DRILL***THIS IS A DRILL*****

The purpose of this PSIB is to announce that the Captain of the Port has raised the Maritime Security Condition (MARSEC) in the ports of Houston, Galveston, Texas City, and Freeport from MARSEC I to MARSEC III effective 0800 CDT. **This is only a drill and does not constitute an actual change in MARSEC Levels.**

Facilities and vessels need to contact their designated Port Command Center, instead of local Coast Guard units, when MARSEC III condition levels and security measures have been achieved as required by this tabletop exercise. To obtain the various Port Command Centers point of contact names and numbers, you may visit the Houston-Galveston Area Maritime Security Committee website at <http://www.amsc-hougal.com/> and click on the flashing button labeled "SECURE LIBERTY EXERCISE."

This shift occurred in accordance with direction from the Secretary of Homeland Security to raise the Homeland Security Advisory level from Yellow (Elevated) to Red (Severe).

Local Coast Guard commands will continue to coordinate with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as the maritime community to ensure that all stakeholders in the Ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City are maintaining a heightened state of vigilance and readiness.

Intelligence updates will be posted to www.amsc-hougal.org/event.htm hourly or as emergent information becomes available.

All vessel and facility operators are advised to report all suspicious persons or activities. Vessels shall report to Vessel Traffic Services at 713-671-5103 and facilities shall report to their respective Port Coordination Center. You may also report information concerning suspicious activity to the National Response Center (NRC) via the NRC's 24-hour telephone number at 1-800-424-8802.

This drill is meant to evaluate the effectiveness of the communications process and to ensure all port stakeholders receive the required notification in a timely manner. Any questions regarding this drill can be addressed to LT Leon McClain, Jr at (713) 671-5120 or Marine Science Technician Third Class Shawna Poor at (713) 671-5133. They may also be reached via e-mail at: LMcClain@msohouston.uscg.mil or SPoor@msohouston.uscg.mil.

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